



First Presbyterian Church of Athens

In response to God's grace, the mission of First Presbyterian Church is to create a community where people seek the truth of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, rejoice in worship, and go forth sharing the love of Christ with Athens and the world!

February 11, 2024
8:45 and 11:00 a.m.
Transfiguration of the Lord
Presbyterian Student Center – Campus Ministry Sunday

GATHERING IN THE NAME OF GOD

Welcome to all who are worshipping with us. As we enter a holy space this morning, please silence your cell phone.

Greeting

Psalm 118:24

This is the day the Lord has made; **let us rejoice and be glad in it!**

Prelude

Improvisation on *Gather Us In*

John Coble

Words of Welcome

Moment for Mission

Red Cross Blood Drive

Joe Neighbors

Moment for Mission

Presbyterian Student Center

Song of Gathering

Hymn 470, Stanza 1

**O day of radiant gladness, O day of joy and light,
O balm of care and sadness, most beautiful,
most bright; this day the high and lowly,
through ages joined in tune,
sing “Holy, holy, holy” to the great God triune.**

Call to Worship

It is good for us to be here!

We will live in the house of God forever.

Let us worship God together in word and song.

Let us sing to Jesus, God's son, the beloved.

It is good for us to be here!

We will live in the house of God forever.

*Hymn insert

Gather Us In

GATHER US IN

*Call to Confession

*Prayer of Confession

Glorious God, thank you for the invitation to immerse ourselves in the stories of our faith. Today we watch with Peter, James, and John as you shine before us. We see your garments glisten intensely. We are just as frightened and confused as the disciples were, not because we do not believe, but because we trust what is to come. We give you thanks for the reminder that in Jesus we are not alone, a truth that never changes. On the Mount of Transfiguration, Jesus was surrounded by the prophets of the past and disciples to (cont.)

**Those who are able may stand.*

Please sign and pass the Fellowship Pad, making note of new and old friends, check in on Facebook, and follow us on Instagram (firstpresathensga).

The “you/your” mentioned in *Gather Us In* is never identified, but the 1979 hymn is clearly a corporate prayer to God on behalf of a diverse congregation assembled for worship, longing to be transformed for God's purposes.

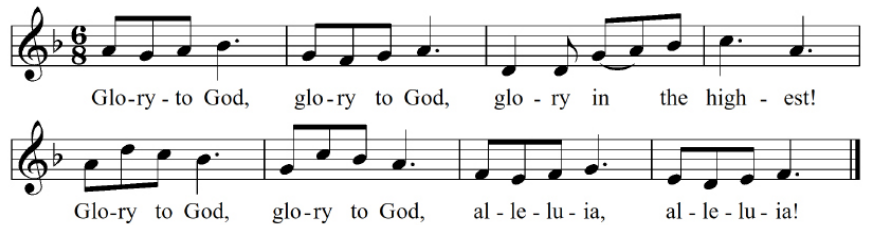
follow him into the future. Help us to recognize the great cloud of witnesses that went before us, to answer the call to be your disciples here and now, and to listen for the new prophets among us. In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.

***Silent Prayer**

Lord, have mercy. Amen.

***Assurance of Pardon**

***Congregational Response** *Glory to God* Jacques Berthier



At "The Peace," worshipers are invited to greet each other by saying, "The peace of Christ be with you," and responding, "And also with you."

Children are invited to remain in the Sanctuary today to support our children's choir, who will be singing this morning.

The text of the anthem is Celtic Rune (poem or song) of Hospitality anthem was commissioned for the 2002 Worship and Music Conference at Montreat, NC, at which many of our choir members sang it for the first time.

Frederick William Faber was of Huguenot ancestry and strict Calvinist training, yet he later became Roman Catholic priest. His hymn *There's a Wideness in God's Mercy* originally had 13 stanzas. He wrote 150 hymns corresponding to the number of psalms.

***The Peace**

Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another.
The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.
And also with you.

HEARING THE WORD OF GOD

Congregational Prayer for Illumination Hymn 327, Stanza 1

**O Word of God incarnate, O Wisdom from on high,
O Truth unchanged, unchanging, O Light of our dark sky:
we praise you for the radiance that from the hallowed page,
a lantern to our footsteps, shines on from age to age.**

First Lesson Isaiah 42:1-9, page 657

11:00 Anthem *The Stranger's Guise* Karen Marrolli

We saw a stranger yesterday. We put food in the eating place, drink in the drinking place, music in the listening place. And with the sacred name of the Triune God, he blessed us and our house, and our cattle and our dear ones. As the lark says in her song: "Often goes the Christ in the stranger's guise."

Second Lesson Acts 15:1-11, page 1009

This is the Word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon *Widen The Welcome* The Rev. Will Norman

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

***Hymn 298** *There's a Wideness in God's Mercy* IN BABILONE

***Affirmation of Faith** *The Apostles' Creed*

**I believe in God the Father almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth.
And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell;
the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. (cont.)**

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church;
the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins;
the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts,
as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the
power and the glory, forever. Amen.

Presentation of Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

Fairest Lord Jesus

Charles Ore

*Doxology

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Hymn 592

*Prayer of Dedication

SENDING IN THE NAME OF GOD

*Hymn 306

Fairest Lord Jesus

CRUSADERS' HYMN

*Charge and Benediction

*Congregational Response

Hymn 68, Stanza 4

To God the Father, God the Son, and Holy Spirit, Three in
one, may every tongue and nation raise an endless song of
thankful praise.

Postlude

Toccata

Eugène Gigout



You may mail your check,
set up an automatic payment
of your pledge through your
bank, or donate online
using this QR code or at
[firstpresathens.org/
giving](http://firstpresathens.org/giving). Thank you for
your generosity.

The text of *Fairest Lord
Jesus* is by an unknown
author. The choir
director of St. Thom-
as' church in Leipzig
(Bach's famous church)
discovered the tune.

Texts and music for hymns and
sung responses reprinted under
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A special word of welcome to our guests: thank you for joining us for worship this morning.
Please fill out the Fellowship Pad so that we may be in touch. We are delighted you are here and
look forward to seeing you again.

Nurseries for children 4 years old and younger, available from 8:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m., are located next
to the Children's Ministry Suite and are accessible down the stairs in the Atrium and through the glass door.

Children's Church is an important developmental time for children, but there are times when children
remaining in worship, watching and learning from their parents, is even more valuable. Children are in-
vited to remain in the sanctuary today to support our children's choir, who will be singing this morning.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE AND DINNER, FEBRUARY 14

Join us for a traditional service including
the imposition of ashes at 12:30 p.m. or 7:00
p.m. We will have dinner from Taziki's at
5:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Please RSVP
for dinner in the Atrium, online at [tinyurl.
com/FPCAshWedRSVP](http://tinyurl.com/FPCAshWedRSVP), or by contacting
the church office (call 706-543-4338 or email
frontdesk@firstpresathens.org) by Monday,
February 12, at noon. The 7:00 p.m. service
will be livestreamed on Facebook and YouTube.

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE FEBRUARY 25, 8:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.

Please join us in the Fellowship Hall and
help save a life! Reserve an appointment at
redcrossblood.org (sponsor code AFPC), or
contact the church office. If you cannot give
blood but would like to help check-in donors,
please contact Joe Neighbors to volunteer
(jbneighb@bellsouth.net).

NOTES ON THE SERVICE

WORSHIP LEADERS

The Rev. Will Norman, *Executive Campus Minister, PSC*

The Rev. Haley Lerner, *Campus Minister, PSC*
Dr. John Coble, *Director of Music and Organist*

Liturgists (PSC Students):

Donnie Lindsey, Audrey Markham,
Lawson Ragan, Patrick Sheridan

USHERS

8:45 a.m. John Simpson (head),
Michelle Clendenen-Shaw

11:00 a.m. Richard Lane (head),
Fran Lane, Ethelyn Simpson

GREETERS

11:00 a.m. Lisa & Keith Oelke

AUDIOVISUAL TECHNICIAN

Bryan Owens

SUNDAY MORNING MANAGER

Aiden Dowling

FLOWERS

The flowers in the Sanctuary are given to the glory of God.

FEBRUARY FLOWER TEAM

Susan Baldwin, Melanie Epting, Karen Gilmore, Terry Nestor, Gail Wilfong

TO AID IN WORSHIP

If you need to leave the sanctuary during the service, a live video feed is available in the Atrium, on Facebook, and YouTube.

Available in the Narthex or from an usher:

- **Personal hearing receivers** usable anywhere in the sanctuary
- **Large-print** hymnals, Bibles, bulletins, and hymnsheets
- **Sermons** from the previous six weeks

CONGREGATIONAL CARE

Prayer requests can be submitted to the church office, 706-543-4338, by the Prayer Request link on our church website (firstpresathens.org) or on the prayer cards in the Fellowship Pads.

Wednesday@First Spring Programs 2024 February 21 - April 24

4:00 – 5:30 p.m. Knitting Purls 2, Parlor

**4:30 – 5:30 p.m. Shakespeare and Friends Homer's Odyssey
Book 14, Room 308**

5:00 – 5:30 p.m. St. Andrews Choir, Room 202

5:30 – 6:30 p.m. Dinner, Fellowship Hall

***6:30 – 7:30 p.m. Meeting Jesus at the Table, Lenten Conversations
with Whitney and Ryan, Fellowship Hall Breakout Room**

***6:30 – 8:00 p.m. Chancel Choir, Room 202**

**Childcare Provided*

Wednesday Night Dinner 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall



\$12 adults, \$45 max per family (complimentary for children 5 and under). Please RSVP in the Atrium, online at tinyurl.com/WedAtFirst, using the QR code, or by contacting the church office e-mail frontdesk@firstpresathens.org or call 706-543-4338 by Mondays at 12:00 p.m.

THIS WEEK

Sunday, February 11 - Campus Ministry Sunday

- 8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Services, The Rev. Will Norman preaching
- 9:45 a.m. Sunday School and Godly Play
- 12:00 p.m. Fellowship in the Atrium

Monday, February 12

- 5:30 p.m. Handbell Choir Rehearsal, Room 205

Tuesday, February 13

- 12:15 p.m. Women's Small Group, Brides Room
- 1:00 p.m. Staff Meeting, Staff Conference Room

Wednesday, February 14 - Ash Wednesday

- 9:15 a.m. Circle 7, Presbyterian Village of Athens
- 12:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service, Sanctuary
- 5:30 p.m. Ash Wednesday Dinner, Fellowship Hall
- 6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Room 202
- 7:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service, Sanctuary

Thursday, February 15

- 9:05 a.m. WDS Chapel, Children's Ministry Suite
- 5:30 p.m. Session Worship, Sanctuary
- 6:00 p.m. Session Meeting, Moses Waddel Room

Friday, February 16 - WDS Winter Break

Sunday, February 18 - First Sunday of Lent, First Things New Member Class

- 8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Services, Dr. Ryan Baer preaching
- 9:45 a.m. Sunday School and Godly Play
- 12:00 p.m. Fellowship in the Atrium
- 1:30 p.m. First Things New Member Informational Class, Moses Waddel Room

New Member First Things Class

Join us for our next First Things gathering on **Sunday, February 18** from 1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. This will be a time to get better acquainted, to meet the church staff, and to talk about what makes First Presbyterian Church unique. To RSVP, please call the church office (706-543-4338) or e-mail Lucy Bell Johnson at lbell@firstpresathens.org by **Tuesday, February 13**.

The schedule for the upcoming class is:

Sunday, February 18, 1:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. - Moses Waddel Room
"First Things" Informational class

Sunday, February 25, 10:00 a.m. - Church Parlor

New Member Coffee/Called Session Meeting to meet and be received into membership by Session (our governing board).

Following the Called Session meeting, new members will be presented and introduced to the congregation during the 11:00 a.m. service. A reception in your honor will follow in Fellowship Hall, so everyone can be welcomed by our members.

EDUCATION – FAITH FORMATION

SUNDAYS FOR CHILDREN

Director of Children's Ministries: Natalie Bishop

Nursery Coordinator: Rita Raines

Nursery Play, 8:30 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

Children's Playroom • Infants – 4 Year Olds

Little ones are invited to Nursery Play during worship and Sunday school. Children will enjoy playtime, Bible stories, and a light snack with church friends.

Godly Play, 9:45 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.

Children's Ministry Suite • Pre-K – 5th Grade

Children are invited to Godly Play during the Sunday School hour. Godly Play is an innovative way of teaching and learning that helps children “discover” who God is rather than being “told” who God is. The structure and routine of Godly Play offer children a safe and nurturing space to explore, connect, wonder, and worship God.

Children and Worship, 8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

All children are welcome to remain in worship with their families every Sunday. Children's bulletins, Bibles, and books are available at the children's tables located in the Narthex and on both sides of the choir loft.

Children's Church, 11:00 a.m. Worship Service

Children, Pre K – 5th Grade are invited to Children's Church after the passing of The Peace. We will continue worshipping together in the Children's Ministry Suite by listening to God's Word, singing to God, praying to God and giving to God.

**No Children's Church on the first Sunday of the month, Communion Sunday. All children are invited to remain in the sanctuary on this special Sunday to take part in worship and Communion with family.*

SUNDAYS FOR YOUTH

Director of Youth Ministries: Kim Ness

Middle School Coordinator: Erin Osborne

The PIT (basement level) • 6th – 12th Grade

Sunday School (9:45 a.m.)

Middle School class is using the Sparkhouse curriculum called Echo: The Story. Each class begins with a video, then we delve into the Bible. In just 36 weeks, we'll travel from Genesis to Revelation, through stories, games and activities!

Youth Group

Sunday night youth group is a fast hour of games, get-to-know you activities, devotionals and discussion. This year our theme is Pieces of Faith. Youth will gather in the PIT to talk about different aspects of faith and the spiritual practices we need to help our faith grow stronger.

Middle School meets 5:00 – 6:00 p.m.

High School meets 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

Combined Youth Dinner (6:00 p.m.)

Between MS and HS youth groups, everyone will gather in Fellowship Hall for a shared meal. If you'd like to help provide a meal for our youth, please email Kim at kness@firstpresathens.org.

For more information about youth ministry at FPC, visit www.fpcathenspit.com.

SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR ADULTS

9:45–10:40 a.m.

IN PERSON

Builders • Room 301

This class is an invitation for parents of children and youth to come join for a time of fellowship and support.
Coordinator: Dr. Ryan Baer (ryan@firstpresathens.org)

HYBRID (*in person and over Zoom*)

Del Dunn Sunday School Class • Room 308

An in-depth study and discussion of scripture, offering a collegial environment and welcoming all who seek to enrich their understanding of the Bible and its application to our daily lives.

Coordinator: Susan Landrum (slandrum@uga.edu)

Zoom ID: 380 330 5940, PW: 245449

New Voices • Room 310

This class explores theological and church issues. Class leaders engage participants by inviting them to share their stories and perspectives on the topics being discussed.

Led by: Lewis Hudgins (lewisahudgins@gmail.com)

Zoom ID: 674 533 8902

Wayne F. Middendorf Men's Bible Class
Bride's Room, Tinsley Stern

Open and honest discussion in a nonjudgmental atmosphere about various aspects of Christianity.

Contacts: Ian Hardin (ianhardin1@gmail.com), Jim Scanlon (jjtscanlon@yahoo.com)

Zoom ID: 883 5159 0923

Gather Us In

GATHER US IN

Marty Haugen, 1979



1 Here in this place the new light is stream-ing; now is the dark-ness
2 We are the young, our lives are a mys-tery. We are the old who
3 Here we will take the wine and the wa-ter; here we will take the
4 Not in the dark of build-ings con-fin-ing, not in some heav-en,



van-ish-ed a-way; see in this space our fears and our dream-ings
yearn for your face. We have been sung through-out all of his-tory,
bread of new birth. Here you shall call your sons and your daugh-ters,
light years a-way; here in this place the new light is shin-ing;



brought here to you in the light of this day. Gath-er us in, the
called to be light to the whole hu-man race. Gath-er us in, the
call us a-new to be salt for the earth. Give us to drink the
now is the king-dom, and now is the day. Gath-er us in and



lost and for-sak-en; gath-er us in, the blind and the lame; call to us now, and
rich and the haugh-ty; gath-er us in, the proud and the strong; give us a heart, so
wine of com-pas-sion; give us to eat the bread that is you; nour-ish us well, and
hold us for-ev-er; gath-er us in and make us your own; gath-er us in, and

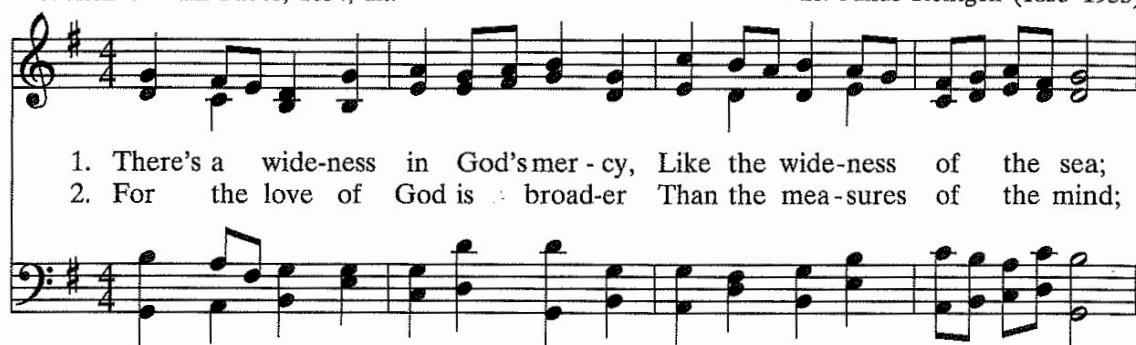


we shall a-wak-en; we shall a-rise at the sound of our name.
meek and so low-ly; give us the cour-age to en-ter the song.
teach us to fash-ion lives that are ho-ly and hearts that are true.
peo-ples to-geth-er, fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

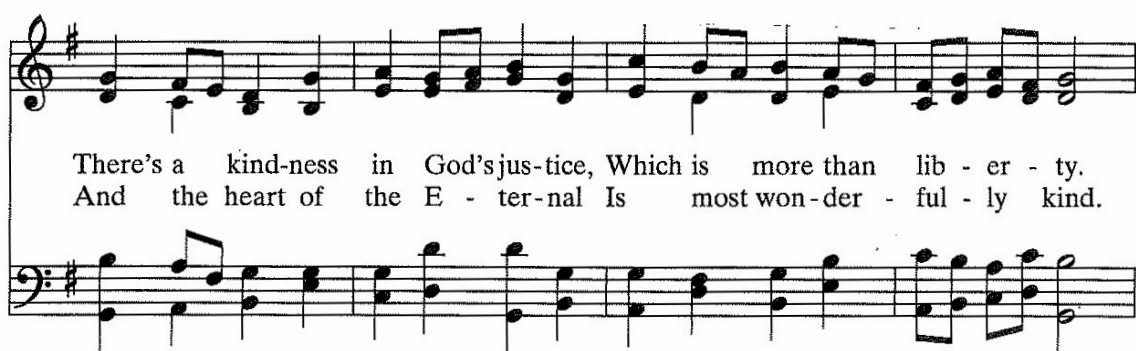
There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

IN BABILONE 8.7.8.7 D

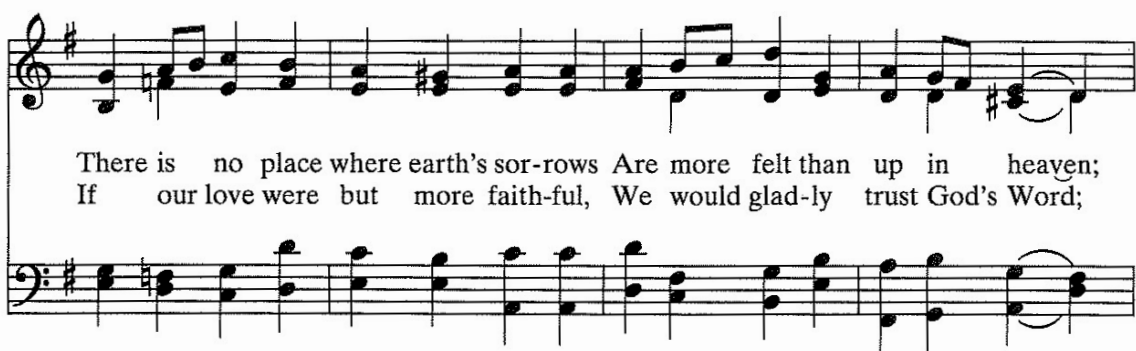
Frederick William Faber, 1854; alt.

Dutch melody
Arr. Julius Röntgen (1855-1933)


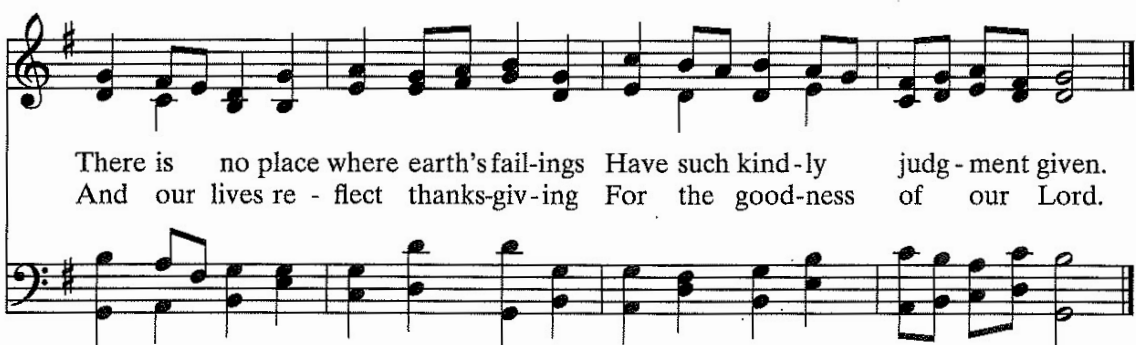
1. There's a wide-ness in God's mer-cy, Like the wide-ness of the sea;
2. For the love of God is a broad-er Than the mea-sures of the mind;



There's a kind-ness in God's jus-tice, Which is more than lib-er-ty.
And the heart of the E-ter-nal Is most won-der-ful-ly kind.



There is no place where earth's sor-rows Are more felt than up in heaven;
If our love were but more faith-ful, We would glad-ly trust God's Word;



There is no place where earth's fail-ings Have such kind-ly judg-ment given.
And our lives re-flect thanks-giv-ing For the good-ness of our Lord.

Fairest Lord Jesus

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CRUSADERS' HYMN 5.6.8.5.5.8

Münster *Gesangbuch*, 1677

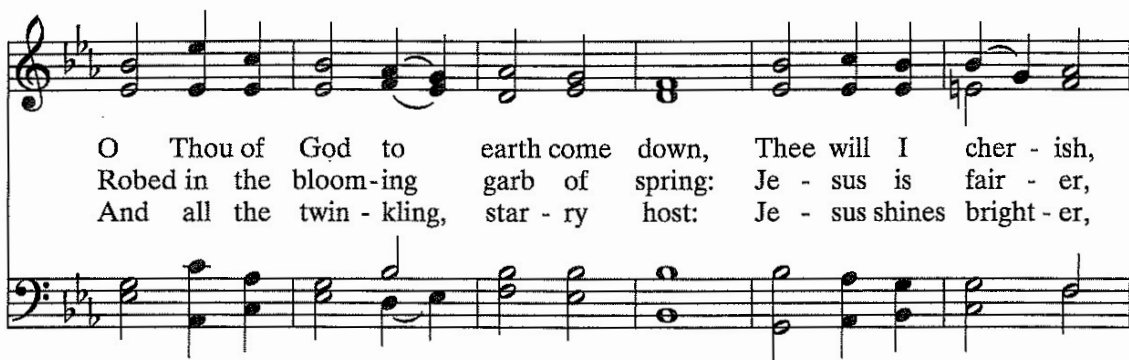
Trans. *Church Chorals and Choir Studies*, 1850; alt.

Silesian folk melody

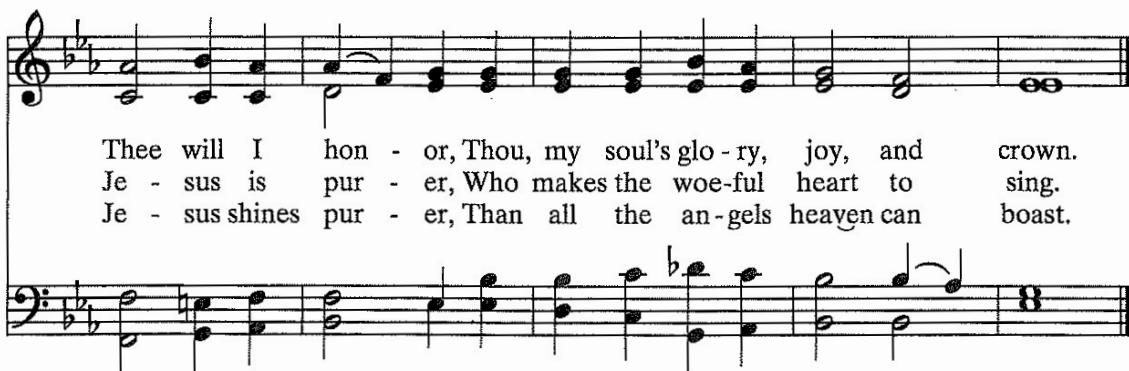
In *Schlesische Volkslieder*, 1842



1. Fair - est Lord Je - sus, Rul - er of all na - ture,
 2. Fair are the mead - ows, Fair - er still the wood - lands,
 3. Fair is the sun - shine, Fair - er still the moon - light,



O Thou of God to earth come down, Thee will I cher - ish,
 Robed in the bloom - ing garb of spring: Je - sus is fair - er,
 And all the twin - kling, star - ry host: Je - sus shines bright - er,



Thee will I hon - or, Thou, my soul's glo - ry, joy, and crown.
 Je - sus is pur - er, Who makes the woe - ful heart to sing.
 Je - sus shines pur - er, Than all the an - gels heaven can boast.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH SESSION

Ryan Baer, Moderator Pat Waldrip, Clerk of Session

CLASS OF 2023

Sarah Bryan
Judy Burch
Kent Burel
Rod Canfield
Melinda DeMaria
Mark Hopkins
Matt Jones
Keith Oelke

CLASS OF 2024

Shannon Brooks
Phyllis Crowell
Denise Horton
Paul Lee
Sharon Logan Neff
Bruce Middendorf
Randy Riner
Chuck Toney

CLASS OF 2025

Lindsay Griffeth
Angela Hunt
Dan Nadenicek
Karen Phillips
Ethelyn Simpson
Jeffrey Trapnell
Pat Tritt
John Turner
Pat Waldrip

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STAFF

Dr. Ryan Baer, *Senior Pastor* (ryan@firstpresathens.org)
The Rev. Whitney Booth Lockard, *Associate Pastor* (whitney@firstpresathens.org)
The Rev. Margaret Davis, *Parish Associate* (margaret@firstpresathens.org)
Dr. John Coble, *Director of Music and Organist* (jcoble@firstpresathens.org)
Mrs. Kim Ness, *Director of Youth Ministries* (kness@firstpresathens.org)
Mrs. Natalie Bishop, *Director of Children's Ministries* (natalie@firstpresathens.org)
Mrs. Elaine Johnson, *Director of Weekday School* (elaine@firstpresathens.org)
Mrs. Lucy Bell Johnson, *Office Administrator* (lbell@firstpresathens.org)
Mr. Paulo Santos, *Director of Communications* (paulo@firstpresathens.org)
Ms. Jennifer Adams, *Church Accountant* (jadams@firstpresathens.org)
Ms. Gabrielle Mason, *Receptionist* (frontdesk@firstpresathens.org)
Mrs. Marcy Fabris, *Weekday School Administrative Assistant* (wds@firstpresathens.org)
Ms. Rita Raines, *Nursery Coordinator*
Mrs. Charlotte Chromiak, *Children's Music Assistant* (charlotteposs@gmail.com)
Mrs. Madeline Van Dyck, *Parish Nurse*
Mr. Wayne Brock, *Sexton*